

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 ACDA-07 AID-05
IGA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 ABF-01 OIC-02 COME-00
AGRE-00 CU-04 /116 W

-----061702 121746Z /50

R 121524Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0940

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1173

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 6144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SG

SUBJECT: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 205678

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 5-9, EMBASSY OFFICERS CALLED ON FOLLOWING MFA OFFICIALS TO REVIEW UPCOMING UNGA ISSUES PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL: AMBASSADOR YOUSSEPH SYLLA, DIRECTEUR DE CABINET AND THIRD-RANKING OFFICIAL IN MINISTRY; CHEIKH CISSE, DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL/CULTURAL AFFAIRS; IBRAHIMA KABA, ACTING DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS; AND BALLA DIA, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS. BALLA DIA WILL BE LEAVING SHORTLY FOR NEW YORK, WHERE HE WILL BE ATTACHED TO SENEGALESE DELEGATION FOR 32ND UNGA. COLOMBIA-EDUCATED AND MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN, BALLA IS VERY APPROACHABLE AND WOULD BE EXCELLENT CONTACT FOR USDEL. EMBOFFS LEFT WITH MFA OFFICIALS COPIES OF TALKING POINTS IN FRENCH FOR MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED. NO GREAT SURPRISES EMERGED FROM DISCUSSIONS. AMB. SYLLA THOUGHT ISRAEL'S COLONIZATION OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES WOULD BE MAJOR ISSUE AT THIS UNGA. SYLLA
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WAS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF US AND WESTERN ROLE ON NAMIBIA AND SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT ACKNOWLEDGED PRESIDENT CARTER HAD ORDERED "NEW LOOK" AT AMERICAN POLICIES AND PRIORITIES IN AFRICA. GOS IS PLEASED WITH US HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVES AND SHOULD BE HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE IN THIS AREA.
END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF SUMMARIES OF SENEGALESE VIEWS ON MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED.

3. POLITICAL ISSUES

A. MIDDLE EAST. AMB. SYLLA SAID HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS THAT UNSC RES 338 COMPLETES UNSC RES 242 FOR PALESTINIANS, AND THAT 338, AS IMPLEMENTING RES FOR 242, LEGITIMIZES IDEA OF HOMELAND FOR THE PALESTINIANS. IF PLO ACCEPTS 338, THEN THEY MUST ACCEPT 242. SYLLA EXPLAINED THAT SENEGAL WANTS TO SEE GUARANTEE OF PEACE, SECURITY AND FRONTIERS FOR ALL STATES IN ME AREA, AND WOULD FAVOR ANY TYPE OF FEDERAL ARRANGEMENT, WHETHER PALESTINE/ISRAEL, PALESTINE/JORDAN, OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT BASED ON GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS. SYLLA COMMENTED THAT ISRAEL, WITH ITS RESERVOIR OF HIGHLY SKILLED AND TRAINED MANPOWER, HAS A STRONGLY BENEFICIAL ROLE TO PLAY IN AREA.

SYLLA STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT ISRAEL MUST STOP COLONIZATION OF THE WEST BANK. ITS ACTIONS IN ESTABLISHING NEW COLONIES ARE NOT WELL INTERPRETED. THESE ACTIONS SOUND LIKE COLONIZATION, AND REPRESENT FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF ISRAEL'S EXPANSIONIST DRIVE, FUELED BY CONTINUING IMMIGRATION. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW COLONIES, WHICH IS HAVING AN UNDERSTANDABLY UNSETTLING EFFECT ON ISRAEL'S NEIGHBORS, WILL IN SYLLA'S VIEW BE ONE OF MAJOR ISSUES AT THIS UNGA. COMMENT: SYLLA, LIKE MANY GOS OFFICIALS, SEEMS OPEN AND NOT UNFRIENDLY TO ISRAEL WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSING MIDDLE EAST ISSUES. GOS CAN BE COUNTED UPON, HOWEVER, TO BACK ARAB SIDE ON MOST KEY VOTES.

4. SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES -- NAMIBIA. WHILE AMBASSADOR SYLLA EXPRESSED APPROVAL OF TALKS WHICH CONTACT GROUP HELD WITH SWAPO IN NEW YORK AUGUST 8-11, HE VOICED STRONG CRITICISM OF MANNER IN WHICH U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES HAD HANDLED NAMIBIA QUESTION. HE ASKED WHY THE MEMBERS OF THE WESTERN CONTACT GROUP ACCEPTED VORSTER AS THE "INTERLOCUTEUR" INSTEAD OF THE UN. WHY WERE THE FIVE SO SEEMINGLY INTENT ON ACCORDING VORSTER LEGITIMACY? SYLLA SAID ON NAMIBIA ISSUE ABOVE ALL OTHERS IT WAS NECESSARY FOR UN TO SHOW CONSTRAINING FORCE. IN FACT, NAMIBIA CONSTITUTED AN AREA PAR EXCELLENCE WHERE UN SHOULD HAVE DEMONSTRATED ITS EFFECTIVENESS WITH A PEACEKEEPING FORCE. SYLLA ADDED GOS WOULD SUPPORT REVISION OF UN CHARTER TO PERMIT WORLD ORGANIZATIONS TO TAKE ON STRONGER ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL CRISIS AREAS. UN SHOULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SHABA CRISIS IN ZAIRE, FOR EXAMPLE, AND SHOULD ALSO BE PLAYING A ROLE IN SAHARA/POLISARIO SITUATION.

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5. APARTHEID. SYLLA ACCUSED THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES OF STILL SWALLOWING SOUTH AFRICAN LINE THAT IT IS GUARANTOR OF OCEAN ROUTES, BULWARK AGAINST COMMUNISM, ETC. EMBOFF RESPONDED THAT SYLLA'S IDEAS ON US ATTITUDES AND POLICIES TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA NEEDED UPDATING. US WAS PUTTING STRONG PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA IN NUMBER OF AREAS AND CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA ONE OF ITS CARDINAL POINTS OF AFRICAN POLICY, AS WITNESSED BY AMBASSADOT YOUNG'S ROLE AND HIS ACTIVE INTERVENTION AT LAGOS CONFERENCE AGAINST APARTHEID. ON HEARING THIS, SYLLA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT US HAD BECOME MORE ACTIVIST ON SOUTHERN AFRICA ISSUES AND THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD OBVIOUSLY DIRECTED A COMPLETE REVIEW OF ALL ASPECTS OF US POLICY TOWARDS AFRICA. ON RHODESIA AND APARTHEID, UN AFFAIRS OFFICER DIA WAS WELL INFORMED, AND INDICATED GENERAL SATISFACTION WITH TREND OF U.S. AFRICAN POLICY OF THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION. HE STOPPED SHORT OF SAYING GOS WOULD SUPPORT ANY PARTICULAR U.S. PROPOSALS, AS SUCH DECISIONS ARE MADE WELL ABOVE HIS LEVEL.

6. HUMAN RIGHTS -- SYLLA SAID SENEGAL STRONGLY SUPPORTS
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PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHING THE POST OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. IN FACT, AMBASSADOR SYLLA ADDED THAT SENEGAL HAS A CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB, FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT KEBE MBAYE, WHO WAS RE-ELECTED TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN MAY 1977. (USUN COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON MBAYE'S REPUTATION AND EFFECTIVENESS IN ITS 1536 OF MAY 17, 1977. FURTHER, ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TORTURE, UN OFFICER DIA INDICATED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH U.S. POSITION. HE SAID GOS AGREED COMPLETELY WITH U.S. ON THESE MATTERS.

7. UN BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT. BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UN GENERATED THE GREATEST INTEREST ON THE PART OF BOTH DIA AND CISSE.

A. CONFERENCES. ON THE MATTER OF CONFERENCES, BOTH RECOGNIZED THAT MANY ARE REDUNDANT, WITH LITTLE ACHIEVED IN TERMS OF CONCRETE RESULTS. HOWEVER, DIA INDICATED THAT THERE MAY BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION AS TO THE VALUE OF ANY GIVEN CONFERENCE. WHAT MAY SEEM TO THE U.S. TO BE A MERE TALKATHON, MAY BE VITAL TO THE THIRD WORLD AS A MEANS OF DRAWING ATTENTION TO A SPECIFIC ISSUE OR PROBLEM.

B. SALARIES. CISSE AND DIA BOTH TOOK ISSUE WITH THE PRESENTATION ON UN SALARIES. DIA, WHO HAS LIVED IN NEW YORK, MENTIONED THE HIGH COST OF LIVING THERE. CISSE NOTED THAT UN OFFICIALS HAVE HEAVY REPRESENTATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES. BOTH ACCEPTED THE REASONING THAT SEEMING OVERPAYMENT OF UN FUNCTIONARIES TENDS TO UNDERMINE SUPPORT FOR THE UN AS A WHOLE, BUT, CISSE QUERIED, "WHAT DID AMERICANS WORKING FOR THE UN THINK OF THIS PROPOSAL?"

C. GENERAL. SYLLA COMMENTED THERE WAS A NEED TO HAVE A THOROUGH REVIEW AND STUDY OF THE UN AND THE ENTIRE UN SYSTEM, ALONG THE LINES OF THE JACKSON STUDY FOR THE UNDP IN 1969-70. IN PARTICULAR, THE RESPONSIBILITIES
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AND ACTIVITIES OF ALL UN AGENCIES, UNESCO, FAO, ETC. SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EVALUATED. THE UN DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM BADLY NEEDED MODERNIZING, WITH MORE USE OF PRESENT-DAY DATA RETRIEVAL TECHNIQUES. SYLLA SAID UN SALARY SYSTEM ALSO NEEDED RATIONALIZING AND QUESTIONED LARGE NUMBERS OF UN PERSONNEL IN HIGH-COST GENEVA.

8. ECONOMIC ISSUES -- IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE REMARKS OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR IBRAHIMA KABA THAT SENEGAL WAS NOT GOING TO TAKE A LEAD ROLE ON NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, CIEC FOLLOW-UP AND OTHER ECONOMIC QUESTIONS. KABA TOLD EMBOFF THAT ALTHOUGH SENEGAL WOULD REMAIN INTERESTED AND INVOLVED IN THESE ISSUES, IT PREFERRED TO LEAVE LEADERSHIP AND INITIATIVES TO OTHER MORE PROMINENT MEMBERS OF THE GROUP OF 77.
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